Positions of Directors of CSIR

1442. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether many positions of directors of CSIR are lying vacant for quite some time;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the date on which the positions became vacant and qualifications fixed for the post of directors and the steps taken to appoint directors, Institute-wise and category-wise as on date; and

(c) the details of delay, if any, in appointing directors and the reasons for same?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes, Sir. Nine positions of Directors of CSIR constituent laboratories are vacant. As an interim measure the charge of such a position has been given to the senior most scientist of the laboratory or to the Director of a sister laboratory.

(b) and (c) The following positions of Directors are vacant:

Name of the Laboratory	Date on which the positions vacant
Industrial Toxicology Research Centre (ITRC) Lucknow	1.7.2005
National Institute of Science Technology and Development Studies (NISTADS), New Delhi	12.8.2005
Central Leather Research Institute (CLRI), Chennai	25.5.2006
National Institute of Science Communication & Information Resources (NISCAIR), New Delhi	1.12.2006
Central Institute of Mining and Fuel Research (CIMFR), Dhanbad	2.4.2007
Central Road Research Institute (CRRI), New Delhi	1.7.2007
Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee	2.7.2007
Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow	1.9.2007
Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (IGIB), Delhi	12.11.2007

For the position of Director, CSIR looks for an acclaimed scientist, possessing a Ph.D. degree and relevant research experience in the R&D areas of the laboratory.

The Government has advised CSIR to revise the recruitment rules of Directors. The same are under consideration of the competent authority. The process of recruitment for the vacant positions of Directors will be initiated once these rules are approved for implementation.

Planning for setting up of specialized research centre

1443. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to set up a specialized research centre at the national

level for carrying out holistic studies on Himalayan glaciology and monitoring all the important glaciers to deal with snow melting;

(b) by when the decision for setting up the centre would be considered;

(c) whether the Geological Survey of India has been conducting studies on the recession of the Gangotri glacier since 1935 and Ganga basin, glacier melts have been reported and scientists found that the rate of shrinking of 30.2 km-long Gangotri glacier during the last three decades is more than the earlier decades; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. The Department of Science and Technology has been assigned the responsibility of establishing a National Institute for Research and Development of Himalayan Glaciers. The Department of Science and Technology has initiated the consultative process for preparing a detailed Project Report for establishing an Institute for "Snow, Ice and Glaciers Studies". The Geological Survey of India has been carrying out studies on the recession of Gangotri Glacier since 1935. Between 1935 and 1996 the average recession rate of Gangotri Glacier was 18.80 m/year but during 1976—96 an increased recession rate of 28.25 had been observed. Further, studies carried out by Jawaharlal Nehru University and G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development had recorded the recession rates of Gangotri Glacier as 17.15 m/year between 1971 and 2004 and 12.10 m during 2004-05.

Structural Engineering Research Centre in Chennai

1444. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether CSIR has a dedicated institute called the Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) in Chennai;

(b) if so, the role of SERC;

(c) the number of such autonomous bodies under the CSIR today;

(d) whether any study has been done to merge or reduce the bodies which have become redundant; and

(e) the steps proposed to study the role of such bodies, their budgets and utilities?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The role of Structural Engineering Research Centre (SERC) is to:

* undertake application oriented research in all aspects of structural engineering, including rehabilitation of structures;
* develop know-how on design and construction of all type of structures;
* provide necessary support services in the area of structural engineering to organizations in public and private; and
* organize specialized courses on structural engineering for the benefit of practicing engineers to familiarize them with the latest developments.